

Harpswell Conservation Commission
Minutes for Workshop Meeting, May 19, 2009, 3:00 PM,
Municipal Office Building, Mountain Road, Harpswell, Maine

Members present: Mary Ann Nahf (chair), Deirdre Strachan, Don Jones, Burr Taylor, Anne Perry, Carol Tukey, Town Planner.
Absent: A. Nemrow, T. Barrett.

Meeting called to order at 3:06 pm by M. Nahf. Minutes of May 5, 2009 approved. Moved by D. Strachan, seconded by A. Perry. Unanimous.

Associate member, Hank Swartz resigned from the Commission due to other committee commitments. .

Old Business:

OSIC sub committees. After some discussion it was agreed that no minutes needed to be taken of the meetings, notes would be sufficient. Actually more of a research/education group rather than a sub committee. There would be not be a quorum of the Concom present and there will be no voting. A report would then be made to the full Concom. Next meetings: May 26, 1-3 for Lands Conservation, 3-5 for Education. June 9, 1-3 for LC, 3-5 for Education.

For mission statement of Concom, M. Nahf will add OSIC before submitting to selectmen

Hildreth Road Recommendations: Reviewed last years' letter to selectmen. D. Strachan reported on HHLT concerns of the area, largest freshwater wetland in Harpswell connects to the back property line. HHLT would be willing to hold an easement if and when that should occur. They thought a larger buffer of 500-600 feet would be better than the RP setback of 250 feet. Concom also discussed a possible building envelope on the property as well as a public access point. Also talked about how large a buffer was necessary and holding a bio-blitz with neighbors, residents and experts on the property to identify species present. D. Jones moved that the Concom recommend to selectmen that all of Lot 73 be kept by the Town as conservation land to be used for educational and research purposes as well as a demonstration site. A. Perry seconded. Unanimous.

OSIC

Conservation Education: Talked about having a bio-blitz on the Hildreth Rd. site at their meeting. Also lawns for lobsters which involves best practices for lawns re pesticide and herbicide use. Kennebunk selectmen approved such a plan in their Town. HCC will contact landscapers in the area to get their view. Also talked about having a flyer made for the Town.

Lands conservation: D. Strachan handed out summary of 5/11 meeting with HHLT. Commission reviewed the notes. It was pointed out that there is a perception that the HHLT was less permanent than the Town in protecting land. Not so according to R. Coles of HHLT. Attorney General of Maine would enforce easments if something happened to HHLT. HHLT will give priority in the future to land acq. and easments in focus areas of the Town. Also talked about Concom role in recreation on Town conservation land. Presently administered by rec. committee. Discuss further

when T. Barrett is present. Talked about importance of Cliff Trail property and the fact that a natural resource inventory may be needed. Possibly get a grant to facilitate this effort. Need to develop a plan for the area. C. Tukey to make detailed maps of all of the remaining focus areas for the Concom.

D. Jones reported that on a visit to the vernal pool at HHLT salamander egg masses had not yet hatched and the water was too dark to tell if the wood frog eggs had hatched. Will check again.

Adj. At 5:10 pm for road clean-up

D. Jones, sec'y.